

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 10-13, 15-17 and 19-23 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 6, 10, 13 and 17 are amended, and claims 7-9 and 18 are canceled. Claim 10 is amended to correct dependency. Support for amended claims 1 and 13 may be found in the original specification at, for example, original claim 18. Support for amended claim 6 may be found in the original specification at, for example, original claims 7-9. No new matter is added.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. Applicants greatly appreciate the indication that claims 11, 12 and 18 contain allowable subject matter.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Shikhman at the interview held November 16, 2007, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

Claim Objection

The Patent Office objected to claims 1, 3 and 5 as allegedly being unclear. In particular, the Patent Office alleged that the term "comprising one or more of" refers only to the first two features and not averaging, assigning, setting and assigning, and therefore a correction is needed.

Claim 1 is amended to remove the term "one or more of." As such, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 3, 5 and 21-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,741,655 ("Chang") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,887,073 ("Fazzari").

In light of the amended claims, the above rejection is moot.

In particular, claim 1 is amended to include the features of allowable claim 18, claim 6 is amended to include the allowable features of claim 9, claim 13 is amended to include the allowable features of claim 18, and claims 7-9 and 18 are canceled.

Accordingly, independent claims 1, 6 and 13, and dependent claims thereof, are patentable over the applied references. Thus, withdraw of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 10-13, 15-17 and 19-23 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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